

REMARKS

Claims 14-19 and 21-33 have been examined. Claims 14-19 and 21-24 and 30-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph and under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

I. Preliminary Matters

The Examiner has returned the initialed PTO 1449 form for the June 21, 2004 IDS, however, has not returned an initialed PTO 1449 form for the March 19, 2002 IDS. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide, in the next Office Action, an initialed PTO 1449 form for the March 19, 2002 IDS.

II. Rejection of Claims 14-19, 21-24 and 30-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 14-19, 21-24 and 30-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner maintains that the newly added phrase, “while defining a non-conductive region having no conductive material therebetween,” is not supported by the specification. In particular, the Examiner maintains that the term, “while” implies that all the steps are done at the same time. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 14 in a manner believed to overcome the rejection. Applicant submits that the support for the amendments is provided in the non-limiting embodiment of Fig. 3A through Fig. 4C.

Applicant submits that the features of claims 14 are fully supported and described in the specification in such a way as to reasonable convey to one skilled in the art that the inventor had possession of the invention at the time of filing.

Also, the Applicant has canceled claims 15, 17, 19, 32 and 33, without prejudice or disclaimer, and submits that the rejection of such claims is now moot.

III. Rejection of Claims 14-19, 21-24 and 30-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 14-19, 21-24 and 30-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

In view of the amendments to claim 14 above, Applicant submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are likewise overcome. Since no prior art has been applied to the claims at this time, Applicant respectfully requests that the next Office Action be issued on a non-final basis.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/894,121

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

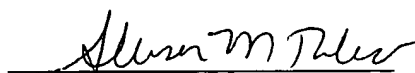
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Date: November 5, 2004